

State Water Board Update

1) San Joaquin River Flow and South Delta Salinity

a) The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) held a workshop regarding its Draft Technical Report on the Scientific Basis for Alternative San Joaquin River Flow and Southern Delta Salinity Objectives (draft Technical Report) on January 6-7, 2011. Information related to the workshop is available on our website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/index.shtml.

Based on written comments received prior to the workshop and oral comments received at the workshop, the State Water Board is in the process of making any necessary changes to the draft Technical Report. Once those changes are made, the State Water Board will submit the final Technical Report for independent scientific peer review. The peer review comments and comments from the workshop and other information will inform the State Water Board's review and potential amendment of the San Joaquin River flow and southern Delta salinity objectives.

For further information on the Technical Report, contact Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov or Diane Riddle at 916-341-5297 or driddle@waterboards.ca.gov.

b) The State Water Board released a revised Notice of Preparation and Notice of additional Scoping Meeting pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act on April 1, 2011. Attached to the notice are draft proposed changes to: the San Joaquin River flow objectives for the protection of fish and wildlife beneficial use; the water quality objectives for the protection of southern Delta agriculture; and the program of implementation for those objectives. The notice advises interested parties that the State Water Board is accepting written comments concerning the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the State Water Board's substitute environmental document (SED) relating to the State Water Board's current review of the Bay-Delta Plan. The deadline for written materials and comments is May 23, 2011 by Noon. The Scoping Meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2011.

The notice and attachments are posted on the State Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/index.shtml

General questions concerning this notice may be directed to Chris Carr at (916) 341-5305 or ccarr@waterboards.ca.gov or Diane Riddle at (916) 341-5297 or driddle@waterboards.ca.gov. Questions regarding legal issues should be directed to Erin Mahaney at (916) 341-5187 or emahaney@waterboards.ca.gov

2) Modeling

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Reclamation are providing modeling assistance to the State Water Board in the following areas:

- a) DWR has developed a plan to address our request for improvements to the salinity simulation performance of the DSM2 model in the southern Delta. The request was made as a follow-up to the recent CDO adopted by the Board in January (WR 2010-0002). We are evaluating the proposed plan and work has not started yet.
- b) DWR is providing modeling runs as needed to evaluate potential improvements to flows and salinity in the southern Delta associated with proposed changes to the temporary ag barriers down there (adding height and changing flap-gate operations). This is being done as part of the coordination effort between DWR and the South Delta Water Agency we requested as part of approving an emergency change petition back in the summer of 2008. No modeling for these efforts is currently in progress.
- c) Reclamation is working on a scope of work to develop a “general investigation” version of the CALSIM model that would assist with implementing flow objectives for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis once adopted by the State Water Board. Like item a) above this modeling support was requested as part of Order WR 2010-0002. The scope of work is still in development with Reclamation and work has not started.
- d) DWR and Reclamation received conditional approval from the State Water Board on their Feasibility Study Plan. This study is intended to evaluate the installation of low lift pumps at one or more of the temporary barriers and the feasibility of increasing flows in the San Joaquin River to ensure compliance with the interior southern Delta salinity objective. Both the low-lift pump study by DWR and flow study by Reclamation were submitted in early April and are currently being reviewed by staff.

For further information on Modeling, contact Mark Gowdy at 916-341-5432 or mgowdy@waterboards.ca.gov

3) Water Transfer Petitions

4/1/11, Order issued for temporary transfer of 10,000 acre-feet of water from DWR to areas within the Westlands Water District. The petitioner requests the changes be effective from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

The order for the temporary transfer is available for viewing online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_orders/

Due to the protest received regarding the long-term transfer notice of 9/28/10, which is for a transfer of 10,000 af/yr of water from DWR to areas within the Westlands Water District from 2011 to 2027, a hearing will potentially be scheduled in the next few months. The State Water Board sent a letter on February 16, 2011 to the protestants clarifying our understanding of the issues regarding the proposed long-term transfer. The 30-day response deadline for the February 16, 2011 letter was extended until April 4, 2011 due to a mailing error. A timely response was received by the protestants. A hearing on the issues of the long-term transfer will tentatively be held in August 2011.

The notice, protest, and response letter for the long-term transfer are available for viewing online at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/transfers_tu_notices/

3/2/11, Petition received for a temporary transfer/exchange of 800 af of water from DWR to areas within Musco Olive Products Company, who contracts with Byron Bethany Irrigation District, a CVP contractor. Under the proposed exchange, DWR would provide SWP water pumped at Banks directly to Musco in exchange for an equivalent amount of CVP water pumped at the Jones Pumping Plant and delivered to the SWP at O'Neill Forebay. The petitioner requests the changes be effective from April 15, 2011 to April 14, 2012. Staff expect to issue a notice by the end of April.

4/18/11, Petition received for a temporary transfer of 1,000 af of water from Reclamation District No. 2068 to Solano County Water Agency by groundwater substitution. The petitioner requests the transfer occur from July 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011. Staff are preparing a notice.

For further information on Water Transfers, contact Patricia Fernandez at 916-319-9141 or pfernandez@waterboards.ca.gov.